

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3203
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, NL, IR
SUBJECT: DUTCH FRIGATES FOR IRAN

REF: DUNNIGAN-WOODS TELECON AUGUST 16

1. THE AUGUST 21 ISSUE OF THE LEFTIST VOLKSKRANT CONTAINS AN ARTICLE DISCUSSING ALLEGED CONGRESSIONAL DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SALE OF DUTCH-CONSTRUCTED FRIGATES TO IRAN. THE ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY VOLKSKRANT'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, LEADS OFF WITH A REFERRAL TO THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK OF ALLERD STIKKER, HEAD OF THE RIJN-SCHELDE-VEROLME (RSV) SHIPBUILDING FIRM, WHO, IT CLAIMS, WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF SUBORDERS FOR U.S. FIRMS. ACCORDING TO THE CORRESPONDENT, CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY HAS CRITICIZED THE SALE AT A TIME WHEN THE DOLLAR IS IN BAD SHAPE AND THE U.S. SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY NEEDS ORDERS. FINDLEY IS SAID TO BE ANNOYED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ORIGINALLY DECLINED THE IRANIAN REQUEST FOR THE PURCHASE OF FRIGATES AND IS NOW CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. FIRMS WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE EVEN IN SUB-CONTRACTS. THE ARTICLE NOTES THE CEILING

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OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SALES AND ALLEGES THAT THE U.S. NAVY HAS TRIED TO RESCUE THE ORDER FOR THE U.S. SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES.

2. COMMENT: THE INFORMATION IN THE VOLKSKRANT ARTICLE HAS NOT YET BEEN PICKED UP BY OTHER PAPERS BUT WE CAN EXPECT CONTINUING ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT. WE KNOW FROM OUR

CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES
THAT RSV IS STILL NERVOUS ABOUT THE FRIGATE ORDER. WE
UNDERSTAND FROM TELECON IN REFERENCE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY
VEST HAS REASSURED THE DUTCH THAT QUESTIONS OF INTEROPERA-
BILITY OF SUB-CONTRACTED SYSTEMS WILL BE DECIDED ON PURELY
TECHNICAL BASES. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE WHATEVER
GUIDANCE THE DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE US TO RESPOND TO THIS OR
SIMILAR ARTICLES. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE BEING KEPT
CURRENTLY INFORMED ABOUT STIKKER'S DISCUSSIONS OR ANY OTHER
MEETINGS OR CONVERSATIONS ON THE SUBJECT. JOSEPH

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